

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

For the Meeting Held On March 20, 2014

Meeting Time : 6:30 pm

Location : Council on Aging – Media Room

Address : 328 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA

Meeting Posted On: **Day:** Thursday **Date:** 3 / 17 / 2014
(48 hrs required)

Is Meeting Being Recorded by Digital Recorder: Yes ☒ No ☐
The Minutes of this Meeting are being taken by: Marge Larocca

Committee Members: (check if attended)

Russ Denver	✓	Eric Madison	✓	James Broderick		James Walsh	
Dawn Starks	✓	Rocco Carabetta	✓	Sam Pizzanelli	✓	Tom Caliento	✓

Attendees: Don Maki, James Sheils, Marge Larocca.

Did the Chair release any prior Executive Session Minutes?

Yes		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Dates of Executive Session Released :

TOPIC / MATTER #1

Review FY 2014 Sources & Uses

Summary of Matter Discussed :

- The Town Accountant distributed the document FY15 Sources & Uses Projections and gave an explanation of the changes that were made to the General Fund Sources.
- The Town Accountant distributed the documents Trash Revolving (Solid Waste Revolving Fund) Fund #2805, Motor Vehicle Excise Analysis and Schedule 1-School Dept. EOY Report and followed with descriptions of the information in each document.
- Discussion began about making adjustments to the numbers in the FY15 Sources & Uses Projections document.
- Discussion followed about the different methods of funding the snow and ice budget deficit.
- Mr. Madison spoke about increasing the funding level of FY15 Capital Projects budget to more than the \$500,000.00 that is currently budgeted. The Chairman talked about not using Free Cash for Capital Projects and asked what the consensus of the committee was about it and noted that he didn't want the snow and ice deficit to roll-over to the next fiscal year. The Town Accountant gave a description of the Free Cash level.
- Mr. Madison spoke about needing to get the budget in line to invest in capital each year and that capital is an operations expense. He doesn't object to using free cash for capital projects and would like Capital Projects to be part of the budget. Mr. Carabetta spoke about the Town's infrastructure not being adequate. Discussion followed about lowering of the Town's debt and getting to where a reasonable level of debt is reached.

- Discussion began about funding the snow and ice deficit and the methods to use to fund it. The Chairman gave a description of the use of the reserve fund being for extraordinary and unforeseen expenses. He noted that the reserve fund can be used to reduce the snow and ice deficit, the Town Accountant can make inter-departmental transfers and use free cash at Town Meeting to fund the balance. Discussion followed about the total reserve resources of Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund, using a portion of free cash to cover the snow and ice deficit and using a variety of resources to get the snow and ice deficit to a manageable level using FY14 dollars.
- The Chairman stated that the Capital Planning Committee has identified \$839,129 in capital projects that they strongly feel needs to be accomplished to maintain the current infrastructure. He added that there is an additional \$558,000 for projects on the second level of the priority list. Discussion followed about funding methods and resources.
- A motion was made to adopt the \$839,129 dollar amount for Capital Planning, \$339,129 of it to come out of Free Cash. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. All were in favor, the motion passes.

Documents or Exhibits for this Matter:

- FY15 Sources & Uses Projections, Trash Revolving (Solid Waste Revolving Fund) Fund #2805, Motor Vehicle Excise Analysis and Schedule 1-School Dept. EOY Report

Votes Taken Under this Matter :

- A motion was made to adopt the \$839,129 dollar amount for Capital Planning, \$339,129 of it to come out of Free Cash. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. All were in favor, the motion passes.

TOPIC / MATTER #2

General Discussion

Summary of Matter Discussed :

- The Chairman asked the Town Moderator to give an update of the recent Board of Selectmen's meeting that he attended. The Moderator stated that the Board of Selectmen did not discuss their priority list and will discuss do that at their next meeting. The Moderator gave a review of the Board of Selectmen's discussion about health insurance changes.
- The Chairman asked the committee members for their views about health insurance benefits for elected officials.
- The Chairman gave a description of an email from the Superintendent of Schools indicating that the School Committee has come to a consensus on meeting the 1% budget guideline. Discussion followed about the budget deficits resulting from the 1% budget guideline.

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Documents or Exhibits for this Matter:

- None

Votes Taken Under this Matter :

- None

TOPIC / MATTER #3

Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2014 & March 6, 2014

Summary of Matter Discussed :

- The Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014. It was seconded and all were in favor.
- The Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2014. It was seconded and all were in favor.
- The Chairman set the agenda items for the next meeting and invited input from attendees. The Chairman gave a brief description of the steps the Board of Selectmen plan to take with the money from the casino.
- Discussion followed about municipal space and the Town Moderator gave a description of the Board of Selectmen having a discussion on the different aspects of municipal building space.

Documents or Exhibits for this Matter:

- Appropriations Committee Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2014 & March 6, 2014.

Votes Taken Under this Matter :

- The Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014. It was seconded and all were in favor. The Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2014. It was seconded and all were in favor.

7:39 PM: Motion to Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 3, 2014 – 6:30PM – Council on Aging – Media Room